THE LINE OF
DC
SUPER-STARS
"The VOICE THAT DOOMED THE SPECTRE!"
25c
NO. 439
JUNE
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ADVENTURE COMICS
Adventure
COMICS
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

BATMAN AND THE MUMMY
THE MUMMY HAS CAPTURED THE PROFESSOR AND HIS BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTER!
GREAT CHEOPS!
THEY VIOLATED THE TOMB OF HIS ANCESTORS AND HE WANTS REVENGE!
I'LL ROLL THIS TWO TON STONE... THEY'LL NEVER GET OUT ALIVE!
EVEN MY SPECIAL MUMMY RAY GUN WON'T STOP HIM...
WELL, AFTER ALL, YOU CAN'T KILL A MUMMY!
RIGHT... HE'S ALREADY DEAD! WHAT'LL WE DO?
WE'VE GOT TO HAVE A SECRET WEAPON... I'VE GOT IT!
WHAT IS IT? WE'VE GOT TO ACT FAST!
WE'LL LURE HIM AWAY WITH AN OFFER HE CAN'T RESIST!
SEEMS I'VE HEARD THAT SOMEWHERE BEFORE. WHAT'S THAT?
M-M-M! DELICIOUS HOSTESS TWINKIES! I CAN'T RESIST THAT MOIST SPONGE CAKE AND CREAMY FILLING!
HERE HE COMES!
M-M-M! I'VE BEEN AROUND FOR 2000 YEARS AND I'VE NEVER TASTED ANYTHING SO GOOD!
NOW'S OUR CHANCE TO ESCAPE! LET'S GO!
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IN THE WORLD OF MORTAL MEN, HE IS JIM CORRIGAN, HARD-BOILED POLICE DETECTIVE-- BUT TO THE VERMIN OF THE UNDERWORLD, HE IS THE SPECTRE, AWESOME AVENGER OF EVIL, AN EARTH-BOUND GHOST WHO PUNISHES EVIL WITH A FEARSOME VENGEANCE FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE.
READ ON, IF YOU DARE, ABOUT...
THE VOICE THAT DOOMED... THE SPECTRE
NGYAAAA
AAAA
=GASP=
J-3803

A DC QUALITY MAGAZINE

SCRIPT- MICHAEL FLEISHER ART- JIM APARO EDITOR- JOE ORLANDO

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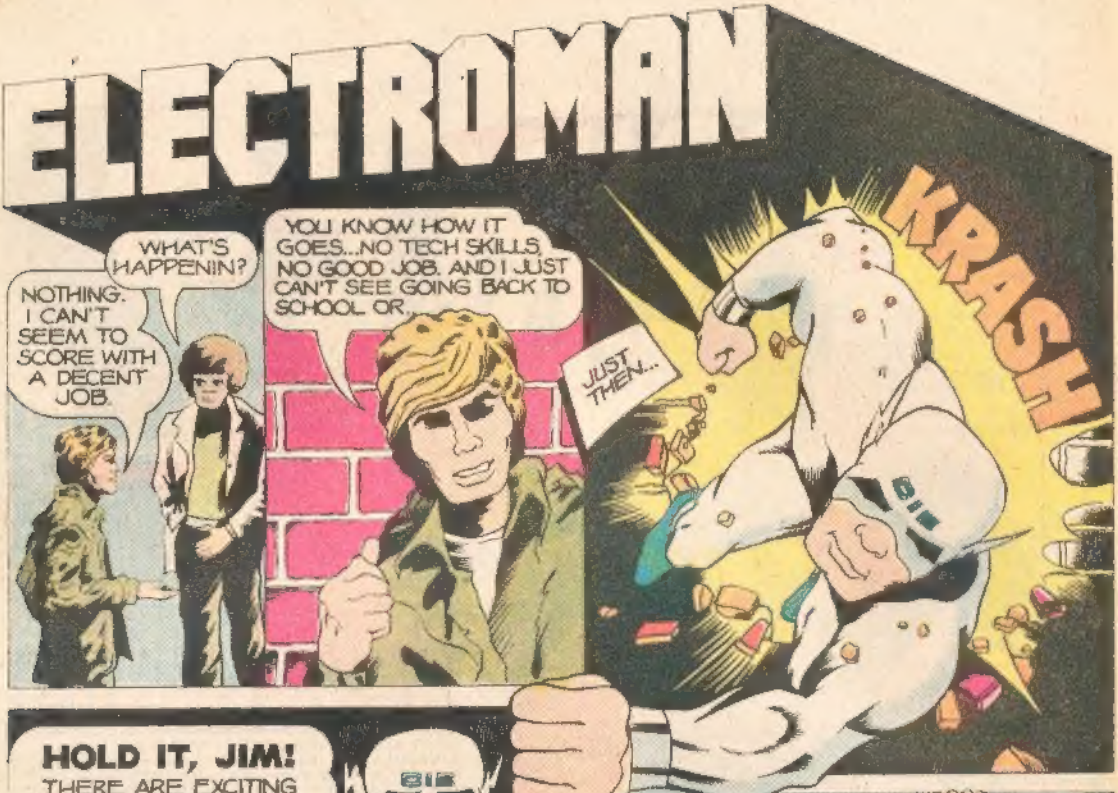
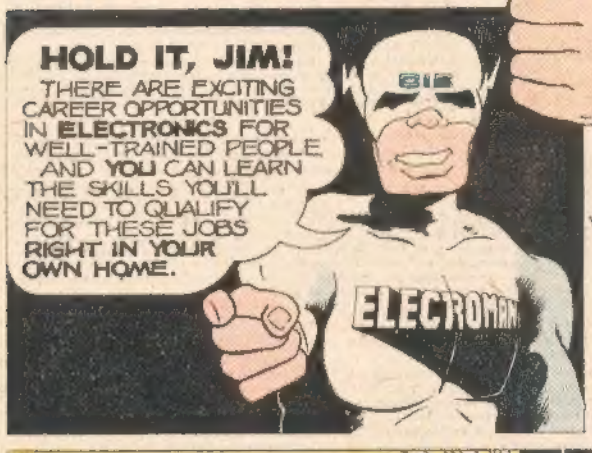
IT IS MID-MORNING AT THE DOWNTOWN BRANCH OF A NEW YORK BANK. THE ATTRACTIVE YOUNG LADY AT THE TELLERS' COUNTER IS GWENDOLYN STERLING. SHE IS ABOUT TO MAKE A DEPOSIT...
HOW ARE YOU TODAY, SUSAN?
JUST GREAT, MISS STERLING! IT'S SUCH A GORGEOUS DAY OUTSIDE!
AND THESE PEOPLE, IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T BEEN READING THE NEWSPAPERS LATELY, ARE MEMBERS OF THE SYMBIOSIS LIBERATION ARMY. THEY ARE ABOUT TO MAKE... A WITHDRAWAL...
EVERYBODY FREEZE! YOU'RE ABOUT TO EXPERIENCE ONE OF THE NIGHTMARES OF BANKING!
=GASP!=
JUST THROW ALL THE MONEY IN THAT CANVAS BAG AND NO ONE'LL GET HURT!
YOU THE MANAGER?
Y-YES! I--
UNNGHH!
BRAT TAT TAT TA
BETTER MAKE THAT ALMOST NO ONE!
Y-YOU MURDERED HIM...IN COLD BLOOD!
BANK MANAGERS ARE MEMBERS OF THE FASCIST OLD GUARD AND MUST BE LIQUIDATED WITHOUT MERCY!
I GOT ALL THE MONEY IN THE TELLERS' CAGES! LOOKS LIKE THIRTY OR FORTY THOUSAND!
THEN LET'S SPLIT! WE'LL TAKE HER WITH US!
2

IT'S OBVIOUS HER BOURGEOIS EDUCATION HAS LEFT HER SADLY LACKING IN ANTI-CAPITALIST POLITICAL AWARENESS!
BESIDES, SHE'LL COME IN HANDY AS A SHIELD IF THE DECADENT CAPITALIST POLICE ATTEMPT TO APPREHEND US!
BRAT TAT TAT TAT TAT
CRASH
POWER TO THE PEOPLE!
BUT INSIDE THE BANK, ONE OF THE TELLERS HAS ACTIVATED A SILENT POLICE ALARM, AND WITHIN SECONDS...
SKREEEEE
TERRORISTS! AND... AND THEY'VE GOT GWEN!
BETTER NOT TRY TO TANGLE WITH THEM HERE!
MUCH BETTER TO FOLLOW AND CONFRONT THEM LATER I AS...
...THE SPECTRE!
3

PRESENTLY...
H-HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP ME HERE?
SHUT UP!
CARTER! OPEN UP THE BAG! SEE HOW MUCH WE GOT!
RIGHT!
THIS END UP
ZIIIP
YOU KNOW WHAT'S FUNNY? WHEN WE LIBERATE CURRENCY FROM A BANK IN ORDER TO CARRY ON THE WAR AGAINST FASCISM, THAT'S CALLED A HOLDUP! BUT WHEN THE PRESIDENT'S HENCHMEN BREAK INTO A DOCTOR'S OFFICE...
...THAT'S CALLED A--
GASP! WHO-WHO ARE YOU?
I AM... THE SPECTRE!
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU MANAGED TO CURL UP INSIDE THAT BAG, SPECTRE, BUT IT'S YOUR FUNERAL!
BLAM BLAM
BRAT TAT
I NEVER HAD... A FUNERAL--!
TH-THE BULLETS! TH-THEY'RE GOIN' RIGHT THROUGH HIM!!
CONTINUED ON 35th PAGE FOLLOWING.
4

ELECTROMAN


WHAT'S HAPPENIN?
NOTHING. I CAN'T SEEM TO SCORE WITH A DECENT JOB.
YOU KNOW HOW IT GOES...NO TECH SKILLS, NO GOOD JOB, AND I JUST CAN'T SEE GOING BACK TO SCHOOL OR...
JUST THEN...
KRASH!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AFTER

BEFORE

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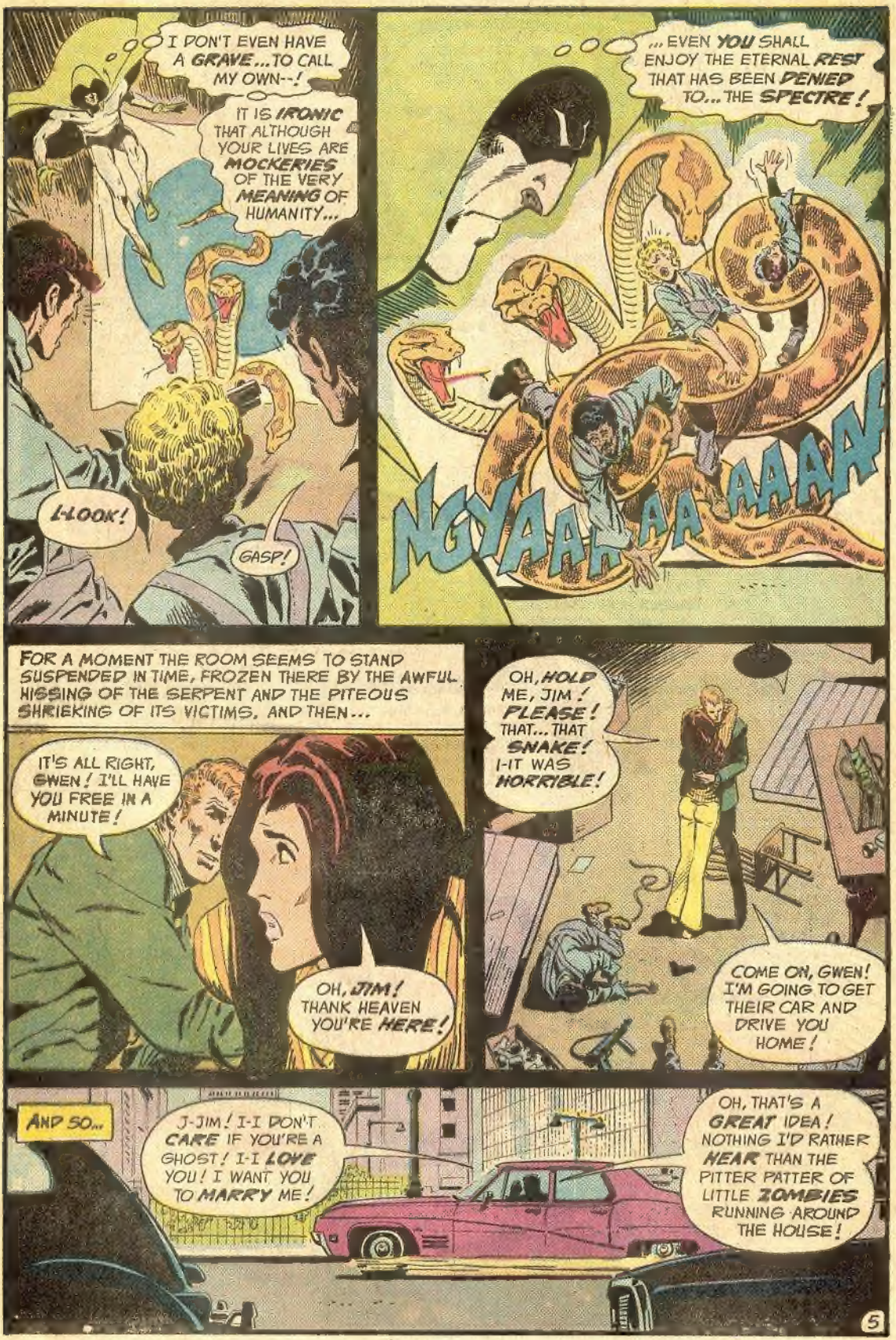
I DON'T EVEN HAVE A GRAVE...TO CALL MY OWN--!
IT IS IRONIC THAT ALTHOUGH YOUR LIVES ARE MOCKERIES OF THE VERY MEANING OF HUMANITY...
LOOK!
GASP!
...EVEN YOU SHALL ENJOY THE ETERNAL REST THAT HAS BEEN DENIED TO...THE SPECTRE!
NGYAAR AA AAAA
FOR A MOMENT THE ROOM SEEMS TO STAND SUSPENDED IN TIME, FROZEN THERE BY THE AWFUL HISSING OF THE SERPENT AND THE PITEOUS SHRIEKING OF ITS VICTIMS. AND THEN...
IT'S ALL RIGHT, GWEN! I'LL HAVE YOU FREE IN A MINUTE!
OH, JIM! THANK HEAVEN YOU'RE HERE!
OH, HOLD ME, JIM! PLEASE! THAT...THAT SNAKE! I-IT WAS HORRIBLE!
COME ON, GWEN! I'M GOING TO GET THEIR CAR AND DRIVE YOU HOME!
AND SO...
J-JIM! I-I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE A GHOST! I-I LOVE YOU! I WANT YOU TO MARRY ME!
OH, THAT'S A GREAT IDEA! NOTHING I'D RATHER HEAR THAN THE PITTER PATTER OF LITTLE ZOMBIES RUNNING AROUND THE HOUSE!

J-JIM (SOB)! P-PLEASE--
LOOK, I'M SORRY, GWEN! BUT CAN'T YOU SEE WHAT YOU'RE ASKING?
I-I'M ASKING TO BE LOVED, JUST LIKE ANY-
GWEN! I AM A DEAD MAN! A GHOST! I-I DON'T EVEN BREATHE, FOR PETE'S SAKE!
IS THAT WHAT YOU REALLY WANT... A HUSBAND THAT HAS TO SPEND HIS EVERY WAKING HOUR PRETENDING HE'S ALIVE?
I-ISN'T THERE ANY CHANCE YOU'LL EVER BE ALIVE AGAIN?
OH, SURE! THE BOYS UPSTAIRS HAVE PROMISED TO REVIEW MY CASE JUST AS SOON AS I'VE ERADICATED ALL EVIL FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH!
AS SOON AS YOU'VE--
YOU HEARD ME RIGHT! AND FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN OF THE JOB SO FAR, I WOULDN'T ADVISE ANYBODY TO TRY STANDING ON ONE FOOT WAITING FOR ME TO FINISH IT!
TH-THEN THIS IS--
I THINK IT IS, GWEN, YES! THE WAY IT IS NOW, WE'RE JUST HURTING EACH OTHER! BELIEVE ME, I-IT'S BETTER IF I JUST GO!
WHATEVER YOU SAY (SOB), JIM!
I-I'LL NEVER (SOB) FORGET YOU!
6

THAT NIGHT, IN TI
OF HIS APARTM
TORMENTED JI
I CAN'T GO ON THIS WAY! I CAN'T!
OTHER MEN HAVE WIVES AND FAMILIES! THEY GET TO EXPERIENCE THE JOYS AND PAINS OF LIFE! AND WHEN THEY DIE, THEY ARE GRANTED THE EVERLASTING PEACE OF FINAL REST!
BUT I HAVE NONE OF THOSE THINGS! I'M NOT ALIVE... OR DEAD! I'M SOME SORT OF LIFELESS THING, DOOMED TO CARRY OUT SOME KIND OF AWFUL, UNEARTHLY VENGEANCE THAT I CAN HARDLY EVEN UNDERSTAND!
PLEASE, RELEASE ME FROM MY MISSION! LET ME BE A REAL MAN AGAIN! LET ME MARRY THE WOMAN I LOVE! PLEASE!
NOW JIM CORRIGAN TURNS FROM HIS WINDOW, UNAWARE THAT SOMEWHERE OUT BEYOND THE STARS, IN A DOMAIN OF GOLDEN CLOUDS AND RADIANT LIGHT, HIS ANGUISHED PLEA IS ABOUT TO BE... ANSWERED...
WHEN YOU AWAKEN, JIM CORRIGAN, THE HUMANITY YOU THIRST FOR SHALL ONCE AGAIN BE
PERHAPS THE MISSION I GAVE YOU... IS INDEED BEYOND THE FULFILLMENT OF ANY ONE MAN! PERHAPS BEING ALIVE AGAIN WILL BRING YOU HAPPINESS! I HOPE SO!

AND SO, THE FOLLOWING MORNING...
I FEEL SO PECULIAR THIS MORNING! IT'S AS IF--
PHONE!
JIM, THIS IS CAPT. STANLEY! COUPLE OF OUR MEN HAVE GOT NICK SHAWN CORNERED IN A TENEMENT ON BROOME STREET!
NICK SHAWN? I KNOW HIM! HE WORKS RUBOUTS FOR THE "DUCKY" McLAREN GANG!
EXACTLY! I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO NAIL McLAREN AND HIS BOYS, SO I FIGURED I OUGHTTA LET YOU HANDLE THIS ONE!
THANKS! I'LL GET RIGHT OVER THERE!
BE CAREFUL! HE'S WELL-ARMED AND DESPERATE! HE'S "TRICKY NICKY" FOR NOTHING!
MINUTES LATER...
HE'S HOLED UP BY THAT THIRD STORY WINDOW, LIEUTENANT!
WE CLEARED THE BLOCK, AND WE'VE GOT SHARPSHOOTERS ON THE ROOFS. HE'S GOT A PISTOL AND A RIFLE AND WE'VE GOT HIM PINNED DOWN PRETTY GOOD!
HAVE YOU TRIED PUTTING TEAR GAS IN THERE?
WON'T WORK, LIEUTENANT! THE GAS CANNISTERS KEEP BOUNCING OFF THE WINDOW GRILL!
THERE'S GOTTA BE ANY WAY TO GET IN THERE! THAT'S WHY I'M HERE! THE BACK!
NEGATIVE, LIEUTENANT! HE'S BARRICADED THE DOOR TO THE PLACE BOARDED TIGHT! ONLY WAY IN IS UP THE FIRE-ESCAPE! WE'LL HAVTA
HEY! WHERE YOU GOIN'?
UP THE FIRE ESCAPE! COVER ME!
DON'T BE KILLED!
SAID SENSE CORRIGAN! THERE'S SOMETHING WEIRD ABOUT HIM!

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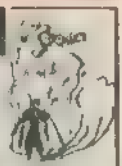

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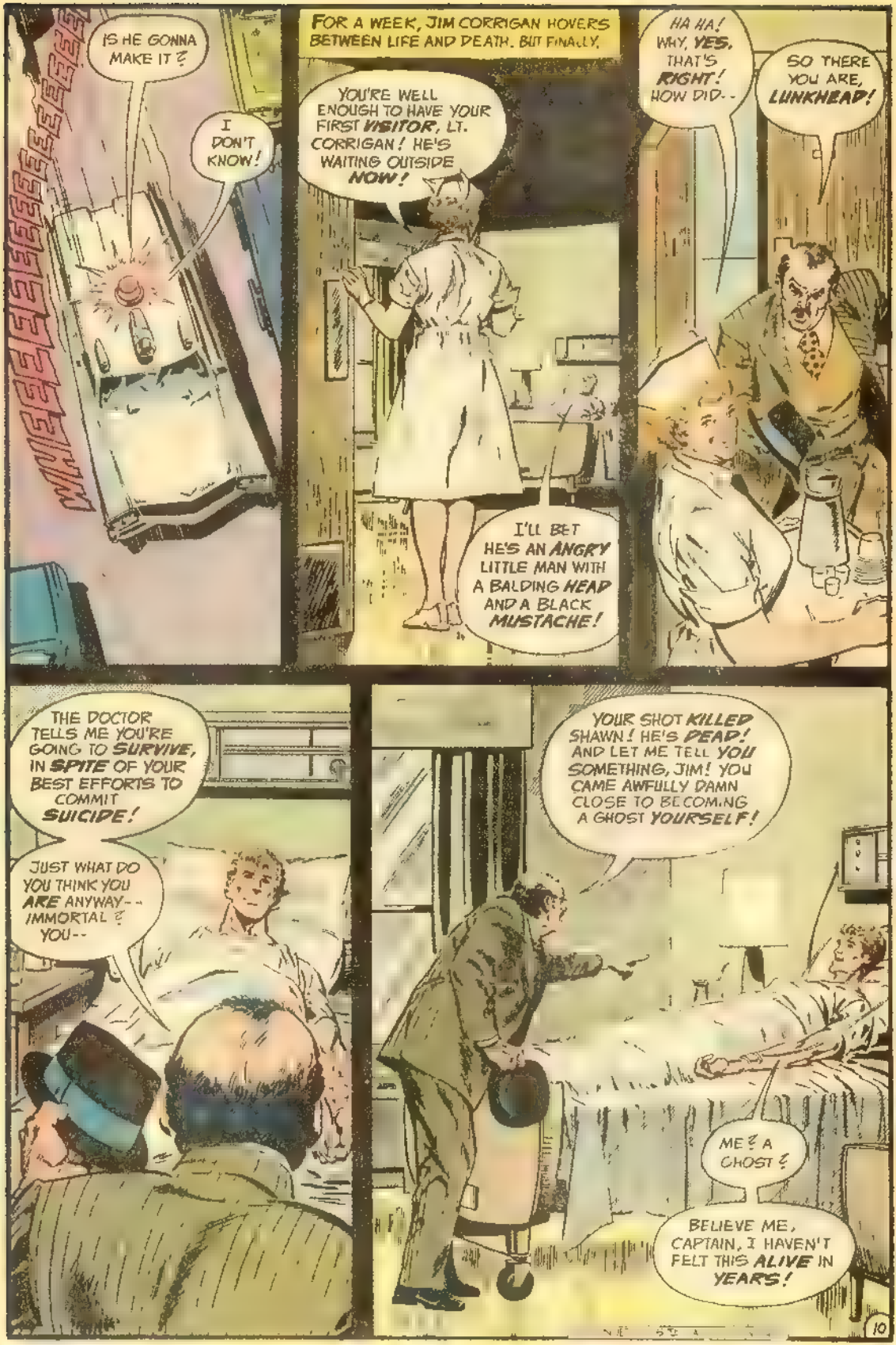
HIS BULLETS CAN'T HURT ME! LATER I'LL SAY I WAS WEARING A BULLETPROOF VEST OR SOMETHING!
COPPER COMIN' RIGHT UP THE FIRE ESCAPE... HE MUST BE OUTA HIS TREE!
BUT I'LL WAIT TILL HE GETS UP REAL CLOSE 'FORE I NAIL HIM! INFLATION'S BEEN DRIVIN' BULLETS AWFUL!
OKAY, NICKY! THROW DOWN YOUR GUNS AND PUT YOUR HANDS--
I THINK MY HEARIN' AID BATTERY MUST BE RUNNIN' LOW ON ME, COPPER! WHAT'D SAY
REELS BACKWARD AGAINST THE WROUGHT-IRON RAILING...
UNGGH !!
I-I'M HIT! B-BUT THAT'S...
STREET...
LIEUTENANT! QUICK! SOMEBODY RADIO FOR AN AMBULANCE!
SIR...
EASY WITH HIM NOW! THIS MAN'S GOT THREE BULLETS IN HIM AND HE'S LOST A LOT OF BLOOD!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I DON'T KNOW!
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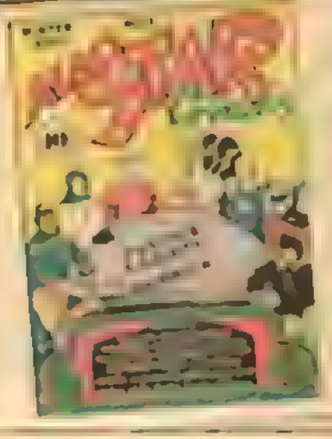

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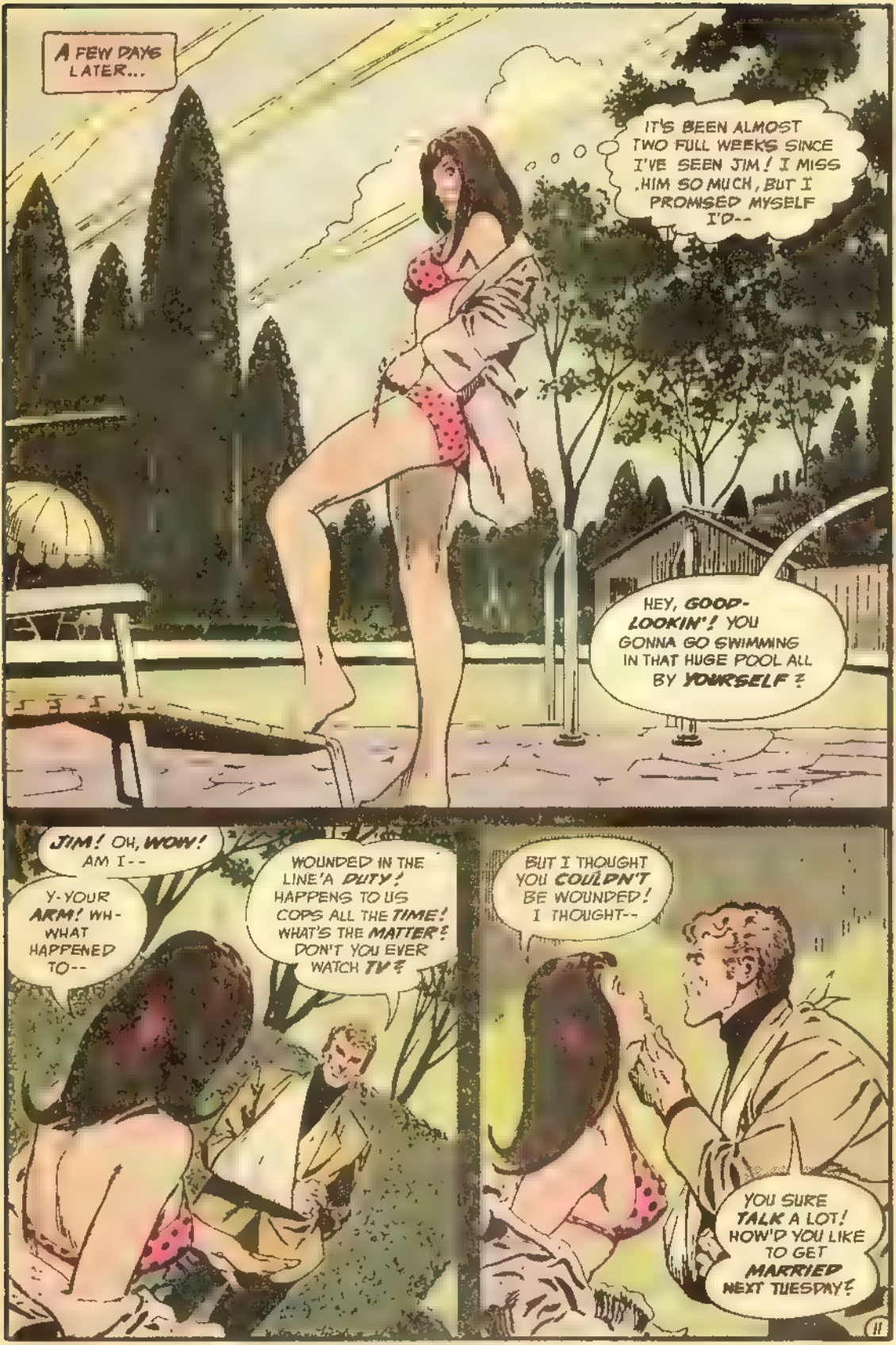
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Y-YOUR ARM! WH-WHAT HAPPENED TO--
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11

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IZZAT SO! I BETTER ASK MY PUCK ABOUT
HE SAYS CORRIGAN AIN'T GONNA LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO MARRY NOBODY! AND YOU KNOW MY
YEAH, "DUCKY," WE KNOW! HE AIN'T NEVER WRONG ABOUT NUTHIN'!
TO BE CONTINUED

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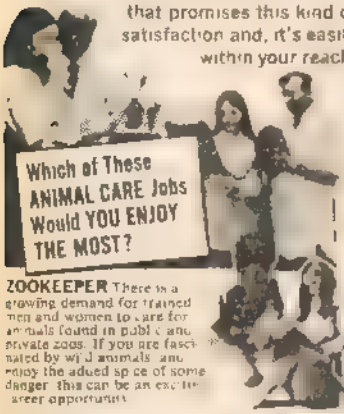

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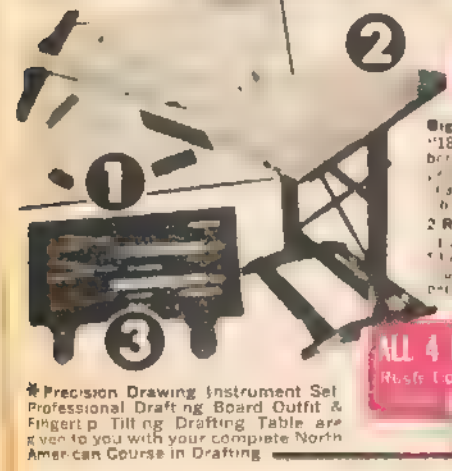

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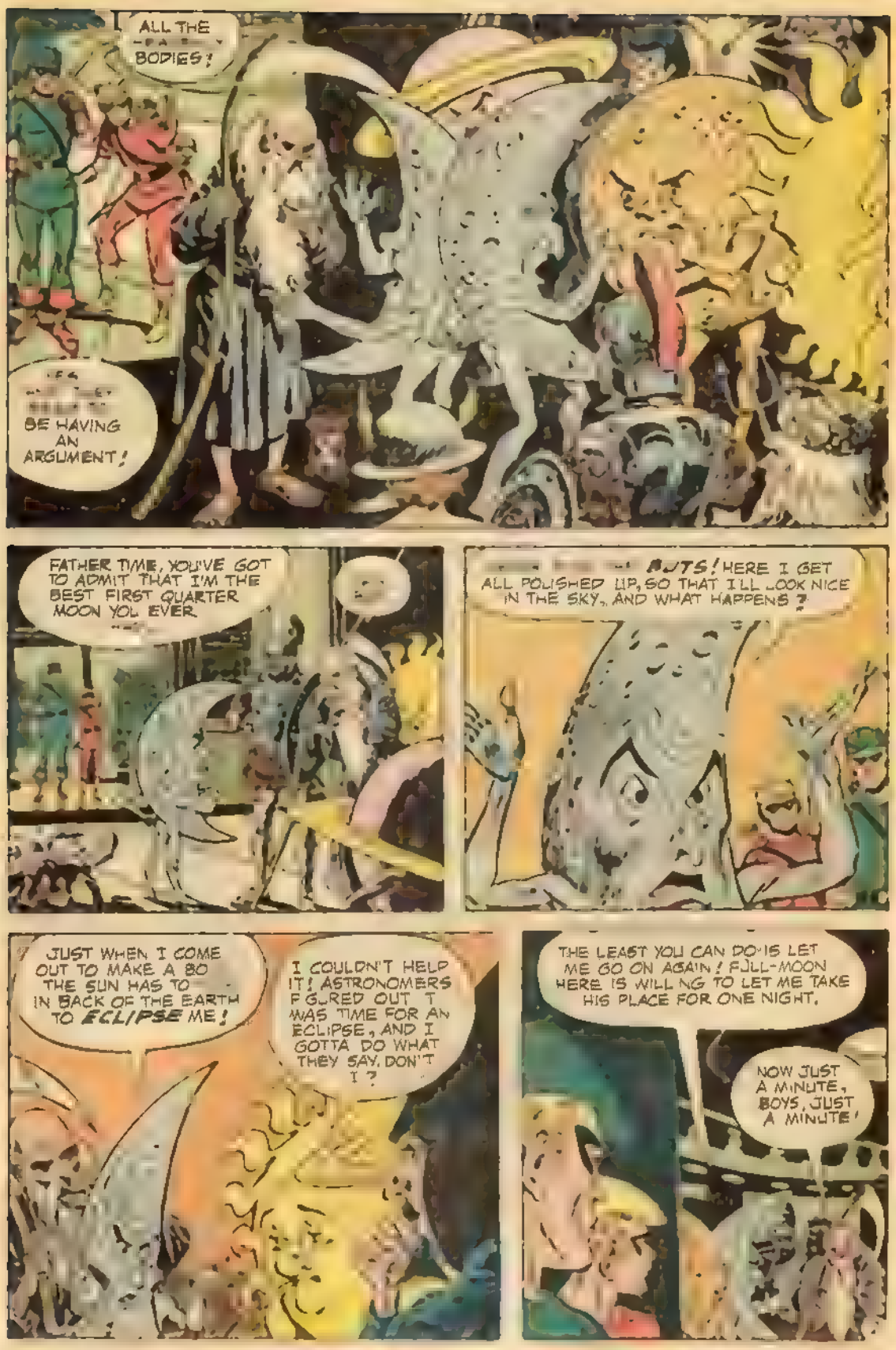
LAND OF MAGIC CONTINUE AS WE JOIN...
THE GREEN ARROW and SPEEDY
SETTLING IT, THE WIZARD ARCHERS MUST
Inn!
TO UNPUBLISHED CLASSIC GOLDEN AGE SCRIPT IS BROUGHT TO
LEE ELIAS, ARTIST and JOE ORLANDO, EDITOR
CHAPTER 5
UPON THEIR ARRIVAL IN THE LAND OF MAGIC, THE ARCHERS FIND UNEXPECTED HOSPITALITY...
I WONDER WHAT KIND OF BOARDERS STAY FOR A CENTURY!
FATHER TIME'S INN
ROOMS BY THE WEEK ..OR CENTURY..
LET'S GO IN AND FIND OUT, SPEEDY. AN INN IS ALWAYS A GOOD PLACE TO PICK UP
MAYBE WE CAN FIND OUT HOW TO GET
FATHER TIME HIMSELF!
YES, AND LOOK AT THE BOARDERS!


ALL THE [illegible] BODIES!
[illegible] BE HAVING AN ARGUMENT!
FATHER TIME, YOU'VE GOT TO ADMIT THAT I'M THE BEST FIRST QUARTER MOON YOU EVER [illegible]
[illegible] NUTS! HERE I GET ALL POLISHED UP, SO THAT I'LL LOOK NICE IN THE SKY, AND WHAT HAPPENS?
JUST WHEN I COME OUT TO MAKE A BO THE SUN HAS TO [illegible] IN BACK OF THE EARTH TO ECLIPSE ME!
I COULDN'T HELP IT! ASTRONOMERS F GURED OUT T WAS TIME FOR AN ECLIPSE, AND I GOTTA DO WHAT THEY SAY, DON'T I?
THE LEAST YOU CAN DO IS LET ME GO ON AGAIN! FULL-MOON HERE IS WILL NG TO LET ME TAKE HIS PLACE FOR ONE NIGHT.
NOW JUST A MINUTE, BOYS, JUST A MINUTE!

I DON'T LIKE TO BE
MAYBE IT'S TIME TO START BREAKING RULES... BEGINNING
HEY, WATCH
SHOULD'VE KNOWN IT WOULD BE
L DO TO QUIET THEM DOWN!

KEEP COOL? WHY? EVEN TIME IS LOSING HIS HEAD--HE'S GOING TO CUT SOMEBODY DOWN.
I'D BETTER STOP HIM BEFORE HE GETS OUT OF HAND!
DROP THAT SCYTHE, FATHER TIME!
HUH..?
WHY, I HADN'T NOTICED. LOOK, BOYS-- STRANGERS!
WHAT ARE THEY DOING HERE?
I DON'T KNOW. I THOUGHT THEY WERE FRIENDS OF YOURS.
TIME IS EVERYBODY'S FRIEND... AND ENEMY AT THE SAME TIME! GET THEM!
MARS AND MERCURY IN CONJUNCTION... OWWWW!
PRESENTLY...
TWO ARCHERS! WELL, I ALREADY HAVE AN ARCHER IN THE ZODIAC, BUT TWO ARE ALWAYS BETTER THAN ONE!
THINK I'LL PUT THEM UP IN THE SKY IN HIS PLACE. THEY'LL MAKE A WONDERFUL NEW CONSTELLATION.

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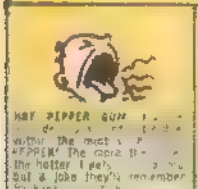

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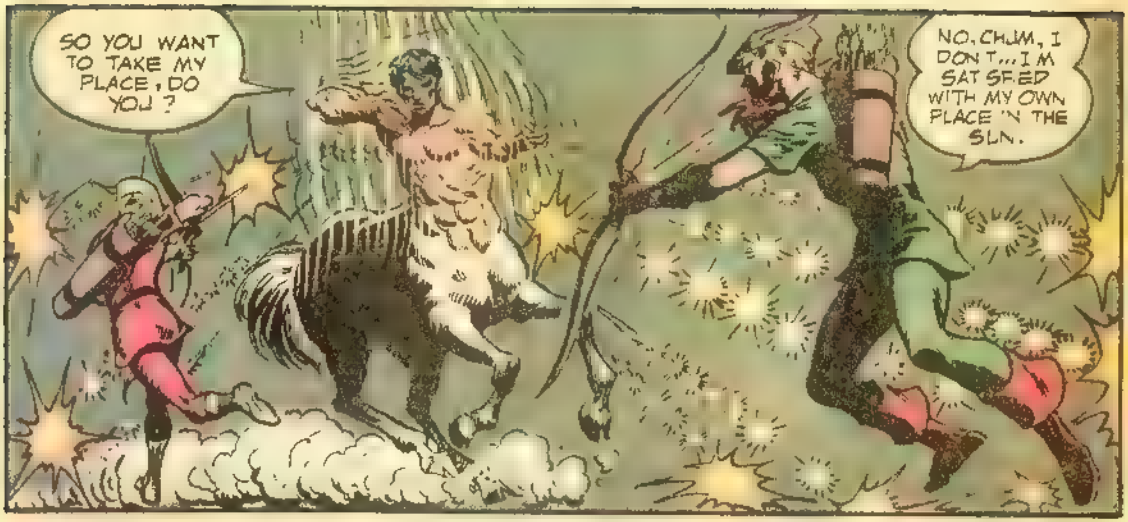
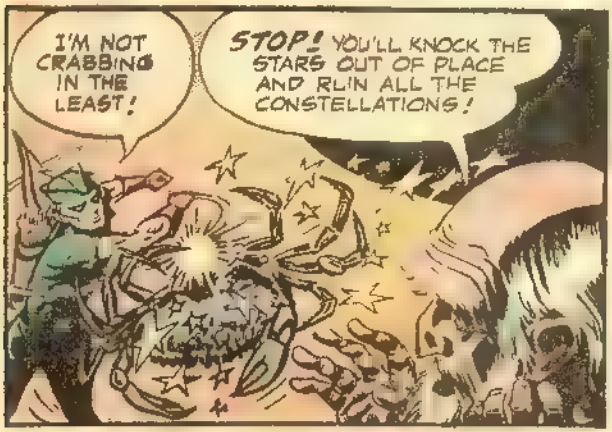
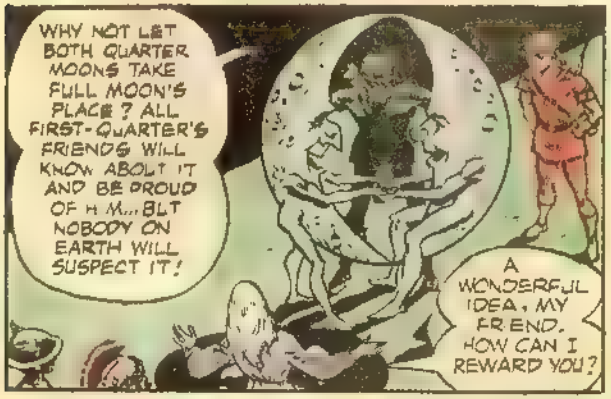
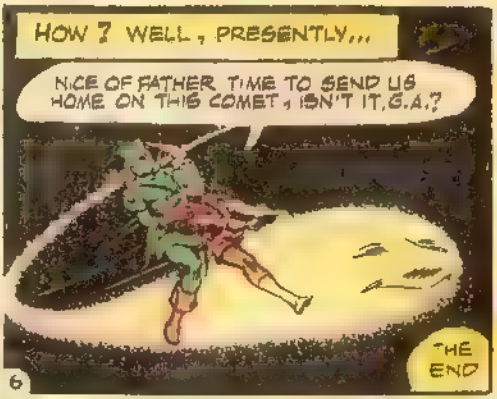
...ELL, I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR ... THEY'LL HAVE TO ... TIME!
YES, BUT WHILE HE'S BUSY WITH OTHER THINGS MAYBE WE CAN THROW H S PLANS OUT OF WHACK!
... IF I CAN ONLY TURN FATHER TIME'S HOURGLASS UPS DE DOWN W THOUT BE NG NOTICED!
... AT GOOD ... DO?
WHAT GOOD? WHEN THE SANDS OF TIME RUN BACKWARD, ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN!
LOOK, G.A.--THE ROPES ARE UNTYING THEMSELVES!
...ES--I FIGURED ... WOULD HAPPEN!
AND WITH TIME REVERSED... FATHER TIME AND THE FIRST QUARTER MOON ARE AT THE BEGINNING OF THEIR ARGUMENT AGAIN!
SAY, WHO TURNED THIS UPSIDE DOWN?
... E S ... SE ... US!
AND THAT MEANS A LOAD OF TROUBLE, KID. THE CONSTELLATIONS ARE COMING RIGHT OUT OF THE SKY TO GET US!


SO YOU WANT TO TAKE MY PLACE, DO YOU?
NO, CHUM, I DON'T... I'M SATISFIED WITH MY OWN PLACE 'N THE SUN.


I'M NOT CRABBING IN THE LEAST!
STOP! YOU'LL KNOCK THE STARS OUT OF PLACE AND RUIN ALL THE CONSTELLATIONS!

I CERTAINLY WOULDN'T WANT TO DO THAT, BUT FATHER TIME, WHY NOT SETTLE THIS QUARREL ONCE AND FOR ALL? I'VE GOT AN IDEA...


WHY NOT LET BOTH QUARTER MOONS TAKE FULL MOON'S PLACE? ALL FIRST-QUARTER'S FRIENDS WILL KNOW ABOUT IT AND BE PROUD OF H M... BUT NOBODY ON EARTH WILL SUSPECT IT!
A WONDERFUL IDEA, MY FRIEND. HOW CAN I REWARD YOU?


HOW? WELL, PRESENTLY...
NICE OF FATHER TIME TO SEND US HOME ON THIS COMET, ISN'T IT, G.A.?
THE END

NEXT:
THE CRIMSON AVENGER LEARNS THAT IN THE LAND OF MAGIC--
"KINGS MAKE A FULL HOUSE!"
NEXT ISSUE ON SALE DURING THE LAST WEEK IN APRIL

DATELINE: ADVENTURE

J-3922

Dear Joe,

If you keep up the quality of **Adventure** #436, then there is no doubt that somebody has to get his own magazine, be he the Spectre, Aquaman, or ye ed . . . not only were the stories great, but so was the letter col! (I love it when you detail your future plans.)

"The Gasmen and . . . the Spectre" was a fantastic adventure story, simply because it was an adventure story. Usually, the appearance of a nut in a story will guarantee some clever, intricate, and boring insights to the mind of a madman. I'm glad Mike Fleisher steered clear of this. Field Marshall Offal was delightfully contemptible.

Also good: the return of Earl Crawford. I am anxiously awaiting the fateful day when he and Gwen meet to compare notes. It'd be interesting to see how the unscrupulous Spectre handles this thorn-in-his-side then!

Jim Aparo's art was really amazing. I don't think he knows the meaning of the phrase "bad art."

Neither, for that matter, does Mike Grell, whose amazing work on Aquaman (along with a capable, unnamed colorist) gave this strip an eerie, underwater feel that it has never had before. This is **the** artist-colorist team for the Sea King, who ought to be given another chance in his own magazine.

Bob Rodi, Oak Brook, Illinois

* * * * *

We blush at the idea of a magazine filled with letter columns, but to reward you for your kind compliment, here's a new sneak peek! Two more chapters of the Seven Soldiers are in the artists' hands: Mike Grell has the Crimson Avenger chapter, and Ernie Chua's working on The Star Spangled Kid!
P.S.—The unnamed colorist on all three Aquaman stories was John Albano, Jr.!

Dear Joe,

I'll let other Spectre-lovers applaud the efforts which gave us that magnificent cover (re: **Adventure** #436) and the suspenseful tale within: "The Gasmen and . . . The Spectre".

Instead, I'll tell you why the Aquaman story left me with mixed feelings. Aqualad's return gave the story a good start; what puzzled me was his sudden disappearance. He encounters the Bugala, goes back to Atlantis to "warn Aquaman" and then . . . POOF! Not a piece of his blue boots was to be seen in the remainder of the tale. He should at least have been there to help Aquaman against the Bugala: that would've reminded us of the old Aqualad-Aquaman team!

But that's a small gripe indeed, compared to the praise Mike Grell deserves for his work. He seems to know how to make people move in a "watery way". And thank you, Steve Skeates, for the Canadian Ambassador (you remembered that Elliot S. Maggin established the U.S.-Atlantis link in a Supie story last year).

Allan Palmer,
Ville Laval, Quebec, Canada

Reader response to Aquaman has been quite good, and we're tentatively planning to bring him back when the Seven Soldiers series winds up. But reader Jim Planck of Harwich, Massachusettes asked if we could run the Aquaman/Green Arrow team-up that was supposed to be scheduled for Aquaman's own mag before it was cancelled. We checked, and the story was never drawn, and if the script was ever written, it's long since lost. Sorry!

* * * * *

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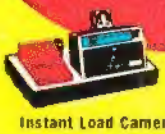
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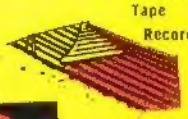
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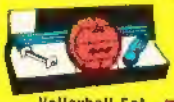
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